

John T. Beardmore Commissioner

Kathryn E. Skouteris, ESQ. Assistant Commissioner

State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration

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MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION Stephan W. Hamilton Director

> David M. Cornell Assistant Director

May 16, 2014

Town of Northumberland Board of Selectmen 10 Station Square Northumberland, NH 03582

RE: 2013 Assessment Review

Honorable Members of the Board of Selectmen:

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration has completed its review based on the six assessment areas specifically identified in RSA 21-J:11-a and RSA 21-J:14-b I. (c).

They are:

- A. Level of assessments and uniformity of assessments are within acceptable ranges as recommended by the Assessing Standards Board by considering, where appropriate, an assessment-to-sales-ratio study conducted by the Department for the municipality;
- B. Assessment practices substantially comply with applicable statutes and rules;
- C. Exemption and credit procedures substantially comply with applicable statutes and rules;
- D. Assessments are based on reasonably accurate data;
- E. Assessments of various types of properties are reasonably proportional to other types of properties within the municipality; and,
- F. For all revaluations including full revaluations, partial revaluations, cyclical revaluations and statistical updates conducted on or after the April 1, 2006 assessment year by either an independent contractor or an in-house assessor, a report based on the most recent edition of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) Standard 6 shall be produced.

In accordance with RSA 21-J:11-a, II, the Department shall report its findings to the Assessing Standards Board and the municipality.

We are pleased to report that you met most of the above standards adopted by the Assessing Standards Board (ASB), with the exception of the following:

<u>Item A.2 – Coefficient of Dispersion (COD).</u> The overall COD should for the municipality's median ratio should not be greater than 20.0 without the use of a confidence interval. The Town of Northumberland's COD was calculated to be 30.70

<u>Item E.1 – Price Related Differential (PRD).</u> The PRD should be between .98 and 1.03 inclusive with a 90% confidence level. The Town of Northumberland's PRD was calculated to be 1.12.

Item F.1 – USPAP Compliant Report. The USPAP report has been delayed due to uncontrollable conditions. Once the report has been submitted and reviewed by the department, the town will be notified of the findings.

Prior to release of this report to the ASB you have an opportunity to respond to any DRA recommendations made. Your response should be made within 30 days of the date of this letter. We will be in contact with you to schedule a meeting to review this report. We are available to provide assistance to you in any areas not met, if needed.

We would like to thank the staff members who assisted with information retrieval as well as working in an understanding and cooperative manner.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that pursuant to RSA75: 8-a Five-Year Valuation as well as Part 2 [Art.] 6. [Valuation and Taxation.] of the State Constitution your next town-wide reappraisal must be completed no later than 2018.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephan W. Hamilton, Director Municipal and Property Division

cc: Assessing Standards Board

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